

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 28, 36, 41 and 43 is noted with appreciation.

Upon entry of this amendment, allowable claims 28, 36, 41 and 43 are pending in the application. By this amendment claims 21-27 and 42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claims 28 and 41 have been amended to clarify the language in a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 28, 36, 41 and 43 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the term "in order of performance" is not clear because it may indicate a best result. However, the term has been amended to recite "in specific order", which is clear.

The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejections Based on Cougoulic

Claims 21-24, 26, 27 and 42 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cougoulic (U.S. Patent 5,872,159) in view of Mills et al. (U.S. Patent 6,482,584).

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cougoulic in view of Mills et al., and further in view of Ellingsen et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0111694).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the aforesaid claims have been canceled, these rejections are rendered moot.

Withdrawal of these rejections is accordingly respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The rejections are believed to have overcome obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert E. Goozner/
Robert E. Goozner, Reg. No. 42,593
Customer No. 00466
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

REG/jr